



November 15, 2018

City of Milwaukee  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Zeidler Municipal Building  
841 N. Broadway, Room B-1  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

I am writing this letter to express my support for the historic designation of Washington Park by the City of Milwaukee. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as part of a three-park plan for the City of Milwaukee, Washington Park is a significant example of the Picturesque Style in landscape architecture. Its central lake, scattered woods, open spaces, and curvilinear paths together express Olmsted's design ideals of the restorative and healthy effects of urban parks.

Olmsted wrote that "A man's eyes cannot be as much occupied as they are in large cities by artificial things... without a harmful effect." The curving pathways of Washington Park, along which people move through and around its naturalistic scenery—lawns, woodlands, lake—provide restoration from urban stresses. All of these design elements are essential for achieving the healthful effects Olmsted intended over a century ago and which have been validated by recent public health research.

Historic designation would protect and preserve this important example of the Picturesque Style. It would allow the park to be restored to vitality, while preserving its aesthetic integrity and honoring its history. I cannot overstate the significance of Washington Park as an example of Olmsted's design legacy as both a cultural landscape and a historic park. Historic Designation will preserve this legacy for future generations.

Sincerely,

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